

78/

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Chinese Communist Regime in Khotan, Sinkiang Province	DATE DISTR.	29 September 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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a. Khotan itself is an old walled city, with police headquarters, schools, and a military station.

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Yarkand is also a large city surrounded by high walls. It contains

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STATE	Ev	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC					
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- 2 -

50X1-HUM

police headquarters and a military station. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There are military posts at Karghalik, Posgam and Yang Hissar; these are situated at some distance and out of sight from the road. The number of military personnel moving about in all the above towns indicated that the garrisons stationed there were of considerable size.

50X1-HUM

b. [REDACTED]

c. Important military posts between P'uli and Murkush (N 36-57, E 74-43) are:

- (1) P'uli is an important place, and a large military station. The cantonment is at some distance from the police station. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

- (2) Dafdar (N 37-22, E 75-23) is a small military post. There were about 15 to 20 men there. Besides the actual posts, the Chinese military stations all along the Pakistan border have observation posts and strong pickets on all points of vantage on the neighboring hills, and these are manned day and night. Patrols between the various pickets and posts are regularly carried out. Under these circumstances, the only men to be seen at the various wayside posts are those who happen to be off duty.

- (3) Beyik (N 37-11, E 75-15) is both a military and a police post. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

- (4) Mintaka post (Mintaka Aghzi, N 37-05, E 74-09) is situated at a height. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

- (5) Lup Gus is an important border post situated at the head of Gul Khwaja nullah. The post [REDACTED] contained about 10 to 15 men. The estimated strength of the local garrison was somewhere between 50 and 60. 50X1-HUM

Military and Police Uniforms

3. Both the military and police wear identical uniforms consisting of khaki coat, khaki trousers, and a peaked khaki cap of the Russian pattern. The only difference lies in the badges. The military people wear their badges on the left side of the breast, while the police wear a shoulder title on each shoulder. Soldiers wear the number of their unit, while policemen wear their personal numbers on the coat collar.

Administration

4. The only political party permitted in Khotan and the rest of Sinkiang is the Communist Party. Every group of ten or twelve houses, or mohalla in larger townships, has a Communist president, officially designated as a mohalladar. He is responsible for propaganda and for the welfare of the people living under him. Over every four or five mohalladars is a sungjang, who looks after and controls the mohalladars under him. Then there is the Communist Party city president, known as a jooiin. Tahir Balal is jooiin of Khotan City, while Tukhta is the sungjang and Rajab the mohalladar of Gejang Mohalla in Khotan City.

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- 3 -

5. Abdur Rahim Pitak is the most trusted henchman of the new Communist regime throughout Sinkiang.² Other key posts, both in civil and military departments, are held by Chinese Communists. Old officials who have been in any way sympathetic toward Moslems have been sent to prison for one reason or another.

Propaganda

6. Khotan City lacked official radio receivers and loud speakers for propaganda purposes, although Tahir Balal, the city president, had tried to obtain a number of these to boost the Party's propaganda campaign. At present, pro-Party propaganda is disseminated in Khotan by public meetings. Every mohalladar is expected to bring to these meetings all those living in his area regardless of caste, creed or sex. No one is allowed to absent himself deliberately from important propaganda meetings. Those found doing so are punished by the withdrawal of ration facilities and other amenities allowed to the rest of the public.

Social, Religious, and Economic Matters

7. The government refrains from interfering directly with religious matters, and for the present no one is pressed to refrain from offering his prayers or reciting the Koran. However, purdah has been abolished as a result of official pressure, waqf property attached to various religious institutions has been confiscated, and most of the former religious schools (madrissas) have been closed down. It is expected that with the prevailing dearth of religious institutions atheism will come in a few years' time.
8. Wealthy people are being harassed incessantly. Their poor neighbors are encouraged to bring against them false charges of old outstanding debts or frivolous damages, which are entertained by the law courts despite flimsy and fictitious evidence. The well-to-do are being fleeced by both the government and the public.
9. The people are being encouraged to convert bullion and jewelry into currency, and it is rumored that after some time even the possession of gold and silver will become a crime punishable under law. It is a crime to smuggle either bullion or currency out of Sinkiang. Deportees, however, are allowed to convert their assets into merchandise which they are permitted to take out of the country. Those who have testified that the Chinese did not allow them to bring their assets to Pakistan either made a false statement or were robbed of their effects by petty officials, who are greedy and without scruples as far as deportees are concerned.
10. All land, including waqf lands, has been confiscated. These lands were redistributed among all major members of the rural public at the rate of six kanals per head, without regard for sex, caste or creed.
11. The government was acquiring all large buildings in Khotan, and it was rumored that these would house workshops and other minor industries. Expert advisers had been brought in from the USSR to train the local people in industrial techniques.

Communications

11. Khotan is linked with Urumchi (N 43-48, E 87-35) by two routes of approximately equal length. One goes through Yarkand and Ak'osu (N 41-09, E 80-15) skirting the Takla Makan Desert on its northern fringe. The other route skirts the southern end of the same desert and passes through Cherchen (N 38-08, E 85-32), Chigelik (N 39-32, E 88-15) and Turfan (N 42-56, E 89-10).

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- 4 -

A regular bus service operates on the former route, but the second route must be traveled on horseback.

12. Khotan is also connected with Leh and Tibet through Sanju Bazar (N 37-10, E 78-30), Sugat Karaul (N 36-20, E 78-07) and Malik Shah (N 35-59, E 78-02). Here the road bifurcates, with one branch going south to Leh and the other east to Lhasa. In 1952 and again in 1953 the Chinese sent large consignments of food grains from Khotan to Lhasa through Malik Shah on horses, mules and camels. It was generally announced that the grain was for Tibet, which was undergoing a famine resulting from the recent hostilities in the area. It was also rumored, however, that the supplies were really meant for a large detachment of Chinese military stationed on the Indian and Ladakh borders.
13. No telephone or telegraph connections exist between Khotan, Yarkand and Kashgar, but these cities are connected by a wireless service over which private messages may be sent. Kashgar is connected with Urumchi by telephone. A military telephone has recently been established between Kashgar and P'uli, though there is no telegraph system between these cities.
14. A wide expanse of desert near Khotan has recently been set apart as a landing ground. It contains no buildings or runways and no airplane has so far landed here.
15. The only important bridge on the road from Khotan to Yarkand crosses the Yarkand River near Yarkand, which it connects with Posgam, which has recently been converted into a military station. The bridge is guarded by armed police who allow no unauthorized persons to enter it. Military motor vehicles and transport use this bridge freely.

Oil Fields near Yangi Hissar

16. Huge machines were being installed on a couple of sites near Yangi Hissar towards Yarkand about 3/4 miles in the direction of Kashgar.³ It was learned that at both places oil deposits had been discovered; and the necessary machinery had been imported from the USSR along with some technical advisers to work these deposits. The oil obtained from these wells will be refined in Kashgar. Thus far no pipe line has been laid down, and it is expected that the crude oil will be transported to Kashgar in trucks.
17. At each of these sites one Russian was supervising the installation of the machinery; all other officials of rank were Chinese. Local people had been employed as laborers only. Women were working side by side with the men. This was a decided innovation, but people had already become used to it.

Comments

1. [redacted] Amin, a Uzbek, [redacted] governor of Khotan. 50X1-HUM
2. This may be the Abdur Rahim, police chief at Kashgar [redacted] and appears to be an outstanding figure in southwestern Sinkiang, but probably does not have [redacted] province-wide importance. 50X1-HUM
3. Since Kashgar and Yarkand lie in opposite directions from Yangi Hissar, this passage [redacted] is obscure. The oil wells were reported [redacted] One of the fields may be near Sughluk; [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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